



July 31, 2020

Andrew Lawler  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Fisheries  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
Silver Spring, MD

Jim Sanford  
Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Small Business, Market Access and Industrial Competitiveness  
U.S. Trade Representative  
Washington, DC 20006

**Response to Request for Information: Recommendations for an Interagency U.S. Seafood Trade Strategy**

Dear Mr. Lawler and Mr. Sanford,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment publicly on how to best to achieve the objectives of the newly established Interagency U.S. Seafood Trade Task Force. With members in 55 countries that produce and trade seafood internationally, the U.S.-based Global Aquaculture Alliance (GAA) has supported fair market access for all seafood products, domestic and foreign, since its inception in 1997.

As the task force looks to develop a comprehensive seafood trade strategy, GAA would like to remind the task force of the effectiveness of widely established third-party aquaculture and fisheries programs in leveling the playing field for all seafood products and for meeting the requirements of corporate retail and foodservice sustainable seafood sourcing policies. The concept of responsible seafood production and food safety is a shared responsibility between the public and private sectors.

GAA urges the task force to encourage domestic seafood producers to pursue Best Aquaculture Practices (BAP) certification as well as other types of third-party aquaculture and fisheries certification as a means of assuring that their products meet all international criteria for environmental responsibility, social accountability, animal health and welfare, and food safety. By doing so, domestic seafood producers will open up new markets for their products. GAA's BAP program is the world's largest third-party aquaculture certification program, with standards for processing plants, farms, hatcheries and feed mills.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George W. Chamberlain".

George Chamberlain  
President  
Global Aquaculture Alliance